

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed May 3, 2004 and the Advisory Action mailed August 16, 2004. Claims 1-16, 18-49, and 51-59 were pending in this application. In the Office Action and the Advisory Action, Claims 1-16, 10-16, 18-24, 26-30, 32-39, 43-49, and 51-59 were rejected and Claims 7-9, 25, 31, and 40-42 were objected to. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 8, 22, 28, 34, and 41, and have cancelled Claims 4-7, 15-21, 25, 31, 37-40, and 48-59 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added with these amendments. For at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-9, 25, 31, and 40-42 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed below, the limitations of certain of these objected to claims have been added to the independent claims from which they depend.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-2, 10-16, 18-24, 26-30, 32-35, 43-49, and 51-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,266,343 issued to Caves ("Caves") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,137 issued to Turner, et al. ("Turner"). In addition, the Examiner rejects Claims 3-6 and 36-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Caves* in view of *Turner* as applied to Claims 1 and 34, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,471 issued to Robinett, et al. ("Robinett").

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 7 (as well as intervening Claims 4-6), and thus should now be in condition for allowance. The limitation added to Claim 1 by Applicants in the Response dated March 16, 2004 has been deleted because the Examiner had indicated that Claim 7 was allowable before the addition of this limitation to Claim 1 (from which Claim 7 depended). Therefore, Applicants respectfully

request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1, as well as Claims 2-3 and 8-14, which depend from Claim 1.

Claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 25, and thus should now be in condition for allowance. The limitation added to Claim 22 by Applicants in the Response dated March 16, 2004 has been deleted because the Examiner had indicated that Claim 25 was allowable before the addition of this limitation to Claim 22 (from which Claim 25 depended). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 22, as well as Claims 23-24 and 26-27, which depend from Claim 22.

Claim 28 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 31, and thus should now be in condition for allowance. The limitation added to Claim 28 by Applicants in the Response dated March 16, 2004 has been deleted because the Examiner had indicated that Claim 31 was allowable before the addition of this limitation to Claim 28 (from which Claim 31 depended). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 28, as well as Claims 29-30 and 32-33, which depend from Claim 28.

Claim 34 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 40 (as well as intervening Claims 37-39), and thus should now be in condition for allowance. The limitation added to Claim 34 by Applicants in the Response dated March 16, 2004 has been deleted because the Examiner had indicated that Claim 40 was allowable before the addition of this limitation to Claim 34 (from which Claim 40 depended). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 34, as well as Claims 35-36 and 41-47, which depend from Claim 34.

Claims 15-21 and 48-59 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is now moot. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Brian W. Oaks, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6986.

Although Applicants believe that no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker & Botts, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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